

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A boot for use with a joint, said boot comprising:

a body;

a first end of said body having a generally tubular shape;

5 a second end of said body having an annular sealing lip; and

at least one end of said sealing boot ends is reinforced with a rigid support material.

2. The boot of claim 1, wherein said at least one end is internally reinforced.

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3. The boot of claim 1, wherein said at least one end is reinforced with a high stiffness and high strength material.

4. The boot of claim 3 wherein said high stiffness and high strength material is a

15 fabric.

5. The boot of claim 1 wherein said rigid support material is arranged between layers of a flexible material.

20 6. The boot of claim 5 wherein said flexible material is a thermoplastic.

7. The boot of claim 1 wherein said rigid support material extends from approximately said first end to said second end.

8. The boot of claim 1 wherein said rigid support material stabilizes the boot at high speeds.

5 9. A boot having high stability and superior sealing capability during high speed operation, high temperatures, and high operating angles for use on a joint, said boot comprising:

a body;

a first end of said body having a generally tubular shape;

a second end of said body having an annular sealing area;

10 the sealing boot is comprised of a flexible material and at least one end is internally reinforced with a high stiffness and high strength material for providing the high stability and superior sealing.

10. The boot of claim 9 wherein said high stiffness and high strength material extends
15 from approximately said first end to said second end.

11. The boot of claim 9 wherein said high stiffness and high strength material is arranged between layers of said flexible material.

20 12. The boot of claim 9 wherein said high stiffness and high strength material is a fabric.

13. A joint assembly, said assembly comprising:

a shaft;

a first joint part connected to said shaft;

a second joint part cooperable with said first joint part to transmit torque

5 therebetween;

a boot having a first end contacting said shaft and a second end associated with
said second joint part; and

wherein at least one of said boot ends is reinforced with a rigid support material.

10 14. The assembly of claim 13, wherein said at least one end is internally reinforced.

15 15. The assembly of claim 13, wherein said at least one end is reinforced with a high
stiffness and high strength material.

16 16. The boot of claim 15 wherein said high stiffness and high strength material is a
fabric.

17 17. The boot of claim 13 wherein said rigid support material is arranged between
layers of a flexible material.

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18. The boot of claim 17 wherein said flexible material is a rubber.

19. The boot of claim 13 wherein said rigid support material extends from approximately said first end to said second end.

20. A joint assembly for use on a vehicle, said assembly comprising:

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a shaft;

a first joint part connected to said shaft;

a second joint part cooperable with said first joint part to transmit torque therebetween;

10 with said second joint part;

a boot cover having a first end and a second end, said first end of said boot cover affixable to said second joint part and said second end of said boot cover affixable to said second end of said boot; and

15 wherein at least one end of said boot ends is internally reinforced with a high stiffness and high strength fabric material so as to provide high stability and superior sealing capability during high speed operation, high temperatures, and high operation angles.